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1989/06/03

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 89STATE 176508 UNCLASSIFIED

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-----376247 032319Z /38
O 032317Z JUN 89 ZEX
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE
ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5039
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7925

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176508

EXDIS DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINS, PREL, CASC, CH
SUBJECT: TFCH01: SITREP 1, 1700 EDT, 6/3/89

1. PLA MOVES ON TIANANMEN, CASUALTIES HIGH.
EMBASSY BEIJING REPORTS THAT TROOPS USING AUTOMATIC
WEAPONS ADVANCED IN TANKS, APC'S, AND TRUCKS FROM
SEVERAL DIRECTIONS ON TIANANMEN SQUARE JUNE 3. THERE
WAS CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE BY DEMONSTRATORS, AND THE
NUMBER OF CASUALTIES APPEARS HIGH. THE EMBASSY
ESTIMATES THAT THE 50-70 REPORTED DEAD IN FOREIGN MEDIA
IS PROBABLY MUCH TOO LOW. HOSPITALS ARE SAID TO BE
OVERFLOWING WITH CASUALTIES. TIANANMEN SQUARE HAS BEEN
SURROUNDED BY TROOPS, AND SOME 3000 PROTESTERS REMAIN
WITHIN. THE EMBASSY SAYS BEIJING RESIDENTS ARE STUNNED
AND ANGERED BY THE LEVEL OF FORCE USED. (TASK
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FORCE/EMBASSY BEIJING TELCON)

2. AMERICAN REPORTERS BEATEN; NO REPORTED AMERICAN
DEATHS. THE CBS BUREAU CHIEF IN BEIJING INFORMED US
THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS RICHARD ROTH, ROBERT LUM, AND
DEXTER LEONG, AND A NEW ZEALAND CITIZEN. ALL EMPLOYED BY
CBS, WERE SEVERELY BEATEN BY CHINESE TROOPS ON TIANANMEN
SQUARE. THEIR CAMERAS WERE SMASHED AND THEY WERE

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DRAGGED INTO THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE. OUR EMBASSY IS FOLLOWING UP ON THEIR SITUATION. (TASK FORCE/EMBASSY BEIJING TELCON)

3. U/S KIMMITT CALLS IN CHINESE AMBASSADOR. U/S KIMMITT MET HAN XU ON JUNE 3 ABOUT 1600. KIMMITT EXPRESSED OUR DEEP REGRET AT THE USE OF FORCE, WHICH APPARENTLY RESULTED IN DEATHS AND CASUALTIES. HE URGED A RETURN TO A POLICY OF RESTRAINT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF US CITIZENS. HE STRESSED THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO BOTH COUNTRIES OF US-CHINA RELATIONS. IN RESPONSE, HAN CITED THE NEED TO RESTORE ORDER, AND HOPED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE SAID THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS WOULD BE SAFE. BAKER

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